As you know, plans are proceeding for opening the MTSU campus for the Fall semester. Many of the University’s health and safety precautions will focus on our need implement a solid social distancing plan throughout campus. As a campus leader, we encourage you to consider the following information when planning events for your organization and the greater campus community this fall.

**WHY ARE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES SO IMPORTANT?**

Although scientists continue to learn more about this coronavirus each week, it is clear that transmission of the virus is possible even before symptoms have manifested; that transmission occurs person to person through droplets that are breathed or coughed into the air; and that the longer one is exposed to the droplets, the more likely it is that transmission of the virus will occur. We have also seen that dense residential environments of all kinds, ranging from cruise ships to nursing homes, seem to have higher-than-typical levels of COVID-19 illness.

Our challenge, therefore, is to understand how we can work together as an MTSU community in the attempt to maximize the health and safety of all of our students. We cannot guarantee complete safety. However, both the CDC Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html) and the Tennessee Pledge Access Guidelines for Higher Education (https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery/higher-education-guidelines.html) recommend the observance of social distancing guidelines as key in preventing spread of the virus.

Based on those recommendations from both our federal and state public health experts, you can expect three broad expectations for students and student organizations as we return to on-campus operations this fall.

**WE WILL PLAN TO REDUCE DENSITY IN ALL INDOOR SPACES AND FOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

- **To accommodate a reduction in classroom density, most reservable event space will be transitioned for academic use.** Programming/Event space in the James Union Building (i.e. the Tennessee Room), the Keathley University Center (i.e. theater, conference rooms), the Student Union (i.e. ballroom, parliamentary room, conference rooms), Tucker Theatre, and Wright Music Hall will have very limited availability for events. First priority for scheduling these spaces will be for University events open to the campus.

- **Seating arrangements for meetings or events should be designed to permit at least six feet of distance between participants.**

- **Plan for virtual or on-line events as an alternative to in-person events, when possible.** ZOOM meetings are a great alternative in place of regular organization meetings.

- **On-campus housing has reduced occupancy to ensure that every resident has a private bedroom.** If you offer off-campus housing to your members, you will want to review the CDC Guidelines for group housing best practices.
A cloth face covering must be worn in the classroom, when inside any building, and outside, if you are not able to maintain at least six feet of distance from others.

Everyone should practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Bake sales and group dinners as outlined in Policy 661 Food and Beverages, section V. Student Fundraising Activities, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. If food is offered at any event, it must be pre-packaged boxes or bags from a manufacturer for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal.

Keep personal items (i.e. cell phones, computers, ear buds, etc.) and personal and work spaces clean. Use disinfectant wipes to wipe down desks, equipment, and other shared objects and surfaces before use.

Avoid sharing electronic devices, books, pens, and other learning aids.

STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO MONITOR THEIR HEALTH AND ADDRESS SYMPTOMS PROMPTLY

- Stay home or in your living quarters if you are sick or have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19, please report that information to Student Health Services using the following link: https://www.mtsu.edu/covidreporting so we can protect the community.

The True Blue Pledge honors honesty, reason, and the ability of our students to be givers. We urge you, as a campus leader, and your organizations to live up to the True Blue spirit and set the standard for our community in the upcoming year. We believe that as a leader on campus, your adherence to these policies and modeling them for your peers will help us to keep our campus open and students safe. We need to look out for one another and protect the most vulnerable amongst us. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.